



INNOVATION PLAN APPROVAL SUMMARY

Kings County

Total Requested for Innovation: \$944,843

Staff Recommend: APPROVAL

Review History

- County Submitted Innovation Work Plan: September 21, 2010
- County withdrew Innovation Work Plan: November 17, 2010
- County Submitted Revised Innovation Work Plan: February 09, 2011
- MHSOAC Vote regarding Plan Approval: February 24, 2011

County Demographic Profile

Population: 148,764

- Latino: 49.9%
- API: 3.7%
- Native American: 2.2%
- African American: 8.1%
- Caucasians: 36.9%

Age

- 27.6% under age 18
- 7.7% age 65 or older

Work Plan Name: Youth Transitions

Duration: Three years and nine months

Key Features of Innovation Program

- Pilots a collaborative adaptation of Equine-Facilitated Psychotherapy (EEP), a therapeutic practice with a growing evidence base, for Tachi Yokut Native American youth in classrooms and at a Rancheria.
- Builds service coordination and collaboration among Central Union School District, Kings County Behavioral Health, tribal leaders, youth and their family members, local Native American service providers, and a contracted mental health service provider.
- Combines a classroom-based academic program, social/emotional skills training, cultural learning, and equine therapy to improve mental health and academic outcomes.

Expected Contribution to Learning and Development of New/Improved Mental Health Approaches

- This adaptation of Equine-Facilitated Psychotherapy (EFP) is intended to improve the capacity of the County, other local behavioral health service delivery systems, schools, Native American youth and their family members, and Tribal communities to work collaboratively and to improve access to school and behavioral health services for historically underserved and inappropriately served populations.
- The program's evaluation will assess Native American youths' psychosocial functioning, academic performance, and felt connection to school, in addition to classroom cohesion in participating schools.
- The county expects the Innovation to increase positive perception and knowledge of behavioral health and school-related services among the Tachi Yokut and other Native American community members.

Similar to other MHSAs Innovation Programs: None

Example Reviewer Comments

- Appreciated the high percentage of clients and family members involved in community planning activities.
- Requested and received clarification on efforts to engage the nearly 50 percent Latino population in the county, including outreach and focus groups in Spanish and involvement by community groups that serve Latinos.
- Expressed concern that the original Innovation plan submitted by the county lacked sufficient information about the proposed collaboration – the county included this information in its revised plan.